

Public works garage work close to schedule

by Richard Clark

GALENA—Progress on the new Galena Public Works building is almost on schedule despite some perfectly foul weather conditions, particularly over the last month.

City Engineer Andy Lewis told the Gazette last week that one or more of the crews from Tricon Construction and their subcontractors have been working at the job site every week day except one since construction started last fall regardless of weather.

The one day missed was the day of the ice storm, which could be fairly described as somewhat incompatible with outdoor activity.

Lewis said the basic structure is now “substantially complete except for installation of a number of windows.” Most of the work still to be done is in-

side finishing and putting in heating and ventilating equipment, plumbing and other mechanical work. Since the building can be now closed up, temporary heaters can warm the building enough to continue work regardless of weather.

The day the Gazette visited, workers were injecting polystyrene foam insulation into the interior voids in the concrete blocks of the wall. The foot-thick concrete block walls are braced with steel reinforcing and then filled in with insulation, creating a solid block wall strong enough to serve as a load-bearing structural wall.

Change orders

Lewis commented that the inevitable change orders that nag at this and every other project have so far, very much contrary to usual experience, re-

sulted in cutting costs, rather than increasing them. Thanks to those savings, the next change order will add the cost of putting in tile floors in office and rest areas rather than leaving the concrete floors bare to save money, as originally planned.

Occupancy in March 08

Lewis expects the public works department to be able to “move in” in late March 2008. Before that, gravel fill is needed to raise ground level to the sill level of the garage doors on the east side of the building, and a 30-inch storm water drain will be installed across the property following the general course of a former open drainage way.

“I think the city crews are just beginning to realize they will finally have a decent building,” he commented. “It’s been talked about and I’ve been

looking at available designs and construction details for over ten years and now it’s finally happening.”

‘It’s gone smoothly’

“It’s gone very smoothly,” Lewis noted, referring to the overall construction project.

“I can’t think of any mishaps except that the (temporary) water supply froze once when somebody accidentally turned off the heat tape protecting the pipe.”

There was also a brief delay early on caused by extended delivery time of some specialized materials, but work continued on other parts of the job so little time was lost.

“We’re really very pleased with the performance of Tricon Construction (the general contractor) and their subcontractors,” Lewis concluded.